

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
THE CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
LEASE AMENDMENT
FORT HOOD, TX**

Prepared by:
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

Steven G. Burrow
Chief, Environmental Programs

Reviewed by:
OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

LeRoy L. DeNooyer
Environmental Law Attorney

Approved By:
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS,
FORT HOOD, TEXAS

Roderick A. Chisholm
Director of Public Works

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LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
AR	Army Regulation
BCWCID	Bell County Water Control Improvement District
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CTC	Central Texas College
CU	Classification Unit
DNL	Day-Night Level
DOIM	Directorate of Information Management
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NOA	Notice of Availability
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PCPI	Per Capita Personal Income
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROI	Region of Influence
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPI	Total Personal Income
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCB	U.S. Census Bureau
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), to address the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, of combining Central Texas College's (CTC) current leases of buildings 3201 and 335, as well as adding an additional parcel of 0.738 acres. The new lease would be for a period of 25 years. The additional parcel of 0.738 acres will be used to construct a 26,624 square foot, two-story classroom facility.

Fort Hood Military Reservation is a 217,300-acre U.S. Army installation located in Central Texas, approximately 58 miles due north of Austin and 39 miles southwest of Waco. Fort Hood is one of the Army's premier training installations, and a full range of mission-related training activities are conducted, including maneuver exercises for armored units up to brigade level, firing of live weapons, and aviation training. Fort Hood is the home of the U.S. Army's III Corps Headquarters (III Corps), 1st Cavalry Division, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and numerous other military commands.

CTC has been providing educational support for Fort Hood soldiers since 1970. Throughout the past 36 years, CTC has maintained a Fort Hood campus that has consistently grown in student population and staff. In addition to a wide range of academic offerings, CTC also has provided, and continues to provide, course instruction in purely military topics, such as leadership training, language training, and other topics the Army has requested.

1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

CTC, in cooperation with Fort Hood, proposes to combine their current leases of buildings 3201 and building 335, as well as add an additional parcel of 0.738 acres, into a single lease for a period of 25 years. The additional parcel of 0.738 acres will be used to construct a 26,624 square foot, two-story classroom facility.

With the growing population of CTC's student body, it is important for them to have more classroom space. At the current time, CTC is using temporary modular buildings not in close proximity to their classrooms. CTC proposes to dispose of the modular facilities and build a classroom which is more conducive to student learning. CTC also proposes to share this classroom with the Education Services Officer (ESO).

CTC proposes to combine their leases in order to extend the lease period from 5 years to 25 years.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT

This EA is being prepared in accordance with requirements of the NEPA (Public Law [PL] 91-190, 1969). NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental consequences of all proposed actions in their decision-making process. The intent of the NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through a well-informed decision-making process. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was established

under the NEPA to implement and oversee Federal policy in this process. U.S. Army Regulation (AR) 200-2, *Environmental Affects of Army Actions*, implements the CEQ regulations within the Army. This EA should provide sufficient evidence and analysis to inform decision-makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of the alternatives.

This EA identifies, documents, and evaluates the potential environmental effects of combining the current leases of buildings 3201 and building 335, as well as the addition of a parcel of 0.738 acres where a 26,624 square foot, two-story classroom facility will be constructed, into a single lease for a period of 25 years.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In this section, the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative are considered. No other alternatives shall be considered based on the fact that there were no reasonable alternatives for the project.

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

CTC, in cooperation with Fort Hood, proposes to combine the current leases of buildings 3201 and building 335, as well as add an additional parcel of 0.738 acres, into a single lease for a period of 25 years. The additional parcel of 0.738 acres will be used to construct a 26,624 square foot, two-story classroom facility.

2.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, CTC would continue operating under their five year leases. There would also be no addition of the 0.738 acre parcel adjacent to building 3201, as well as no new construction under the No Action Alternative.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The affected environment is the baseline against which potential impacts caused by the proposed property lease amendment are assessed. This section focuses on those resources and conditions that may be affected by activities resulting from the lease of land from Fort Hood by CTC, including Building 3201 with the adjacent parcel of 0.738 and Building 335. Those resources present within the footprint of, and immediate area surrounding, the Proposed Action are included in this analysis; those resources that are either not present within the area, or would not be affected by the alternatives, are not analyzed here.

Those resources eliminated from further study include groundwater, surface water, wetlands and waters of the U.S., floodplains, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources.

| Surface water, wetlands and waters of the U.S., and floodplains were eliminated due to the fact that none of these resources exist on the subject property. Groundwater, and the quality of nearby water bodies, will not be affected due to best management practices and construction management practices, as well as the implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that shall be prepared for the construction site. The lease itself will have no impact on any waters.

Fish and wildlife were eliminated from further study due to their infrequency on the subject property. Because the property lies in the Main Cantonment area of the installation, few animals are found on the property. Existing wildlife will not be affected by the leasing actions or the construction of the new 26,624 square foot facility. There are no occurrences of threatened or endangered species on the subject property.

Cultural resources were eliminated from further study because no known cultural or historic sites are present on the subject property.

3.1 LAND USE

Building 3201 is located at the southwest corner of Battalion Avenue and 72nd Street. The current lease area is 2.09 acres adjacent to the 0.738 acre area, and consists of building 3201, a parking lot and landscaped areas. Building 3201 has a square footage of 30,000. CTC occupies 20,000 square feet of the land and 10,000 square feet of the land is occupied by Fort Hood as their library annex. The current land use is general administrative purposes. The adjacent parcel of 0.738 consists of an existing parking lot as well as a grassy area. Building 3201 is shown in figure 3.1. The adjacent parcel and building 3201 are shown in Figure 3.2.

Figure 3.1



Figure 3.2



Building 335 is located at the southwest corner of 761st Tank Battalion Avenue and 31st Street. The 3,250 square foot facility, with a parking lot for approximately 58 vehicles and a drive-thru, was built in 1985. Building 335 is situated in the residential/administrative section of Fort Hood.

The land use for building 335 will be administrative in nature, used for culinary classes and military occupational specialty (MOS) training. Photos of Building 335 are shown in Figures 3.3.

Figure 3.3



3.2 AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

Building 3201, Building 335, and the adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres have terrain consisting primarily of Bermuda grass. The surrounding landscape of Building 335 includes military family housing and other administrative and recreational facilities. Building 3201 is surrounded by similar administrative buildings. Because the properties lie within the Main Cantonment area of the installation, very few visually appealing sites surround the property. A few native trees dot the landscape around the existing lease areas.

3.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Soils observed on the property are of the Brackett-Topsey association and Slidell silty clay. See Figure 3.4 for locations of the soil types for Building 3201 and the adjacent parcel. See Figure 3.5 for locations of the soil types for Building 335.

Figure 3.4



Figure 3.5



3.4 WATER QUALITY

Although no water bodies exist on the subject property, rain events may cause runoff from the site to end up in nearby waters. The presence of grasses and the lack of nearby water bodies substantially minimize any impacts to water quality from the current site. Use of the Integrated Pest Management Plan minimizes any impacts to water quality due to use, and runoff, of pesticides when applied near Building 3201, the adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and Building 335.

3.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.5.1 Vegetation

The vegetation observed on the subject property is primarily Bermuda grass mixed with a few non-native trees, all of which were planted after the area was last disturbed.

3.6 AIR QUALITY

Fort Hood is located in Bell and Coryell Counties, which are within the Austin-Waco Intrastate Air Quality Control Region (AQCR). Ambient air quality for this area is classified as an unclassifiable attainment area for all critical pollutants. Unclassifiable areas are those areas that have not had ambient air monitoring and are assumed to be in attainment with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Fort Hood, considered a major source for criteria pollutants because of its calculated potential to emit certain criteria pollutants including CO, NO_x, SO₂, VOC, and PM₁₀, is under the jurisdiction of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region VI and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). It is also currently designated as a major source of hazardous air pollutants; therefore, existing air emission sources are subject to Maximum Achievable Control Technology standards. The TCEQ approved Fort Hood's Title V Federal Operating Permit on October 29, 2001, and currently conducts annual compliance inspections at Fort Hood. The Title V Operating Permit must be renewed every 5 years, and a new permit is in the process of being renewed.

3.7 NOISE

Noise levels are computed over a 24-hour period and adjusted for nighttime annoyances to produce the day-night average sound level (DNL). DNL is the community noise metric recommended by the USEPA and has been adopted by most Federal agencies (USEPA 1972; Federal Interagency Committee on Noise 1992). A DNL of 65 dB is the level most commonly used for noise planning purposes and represents a compromise between community impact and the need for activities that do cause noise. Areas exposed to DNL above 65 dB are generally not considered suitable. A DNL of 55 dB was identified by USEPA as a level below which there is no adverse impact (USEPA 1972).

The primary noise sensitive areas are the surrounding residential areas and administrative facilities. The most common public noise complaints throughout Fort Hood are caused by aircraft, followed by range activity. The complaints are not usually due to the effect of the noise on humans, but instead the effect to livestock spooked by sudden noise who damage facilities or structures (USACE 1999).

3.8 SOCIOECONOMICS

The socioeconomic Region of Influence (ROI) of the subject property encompasses a portion of Fort Hood in Bell County, Texas. Bell County is part of the Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) with a 2003 population of 323,922 (Real Estate Center 2005).

The total population of Bell County was estimated to be 248,727 in 2003. This is a slight increase over the 2002 census population of 245,279 (U.S. Census Bureau [USCB] 2004). The racial mix is mainly comprised of Caucasians (57.3 percent), followed by African-Americans (20.4 percent) and Hispanic or Latino (16.7 percent). The remaining 5.6 percent is split between Asians, American Indians and Alaska natives, and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (USCB 2005).

The total number of jobs in Bell County in 2000 was 121,181, a 25 percent increase over the 1990 figure of 96,935 jobs (USCB 2000a, USCB 1990a). The 2000 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, which is slightly lower than the state unemployment rate of 3.8 percent. Approximately 12.1 percent of the total population lives in poverty. This is slightly less than the estimated 15.4 percent of the state population that lives in poverty (USCB 2000a, USCB 2000b).

The 2002 annual Total Personal Income (TPI) for Bell County was \$6,274,479. Bell County's TPI ranked 17th in the state and accounted for 1 percent of the state total. The Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) for Bell County was \$25,581 in 2002. Bell County's PCPI ranked 60th in the state and was 88 percent of the state average (\$29,039) and 83 percent of the national average (\$30,906) (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2005).

In 2000 there were 92,782 housing units in Bell County with 85,507 of these houses currently occupied. Approximately 56,282 of the housing units are currently one-unit, detached structures with the rest existing as multi-unit housing, mobile homes, or boat, recreational vehicles, or vans (USCB 2000c).

3.9 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS

E.O. 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" dated February 11, 1994, requires all Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effect of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. Since the project area exhibits a large population of minorities, particularly groups claiming African American and Hispanic or Latino origin and low-income populations, E.O. 12898 will be considered in this EA.

E.O. 13045 "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks" dated April 21, 1997 requires Federal agencies to identify and address the potential to generate disproportionately high environmental health and safety risks to children. This E.O. was prompted by the recognition that children, still undergoing physiological growth and development, are more sensitive to

adverse environmental health and safety risks than adults. Since the project area is located near residential areas and a school where children may be present, E.O. 13045 will be considered in this EA.

3.10 HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC MATERIALS

Hazardous waste, hazardous materials, and toxic substances include those substances defined as hazardous by the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), or the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). In general, they include substances that, because of their quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or toxic characteristics, may present substantial danger to public health or welfare or to the environment when inappropriately released.

Unserviceable materials and used products are managed at the Fort Hood Classification Unit (CU) for in-house users. Contractors are required to provide material safety data sheets (MSDSs) and product labels for all hazardous and toxic materials used during construction on the installation. Further, the contractor should store and dispose of these products in coordination with the Classification Unit on Fort Hood.

3.11 UTILITIES

Water Supply

Potable water on Fort Hood is obtained from the Bell County Water Control Improvement District (BCWCID) #1, which guarantees a delivery of 16.0 million gallons/day (mgd) (USACE 2003). BCWCID #1 obtains its water from Belton Lake. It is anticipated that the existing CTC facilities as well as the facility proposed on the adjacent property within the lease will continue to use this service.

Sanitary Sewer

Fort Hood and the City of Killeen are served by Treatment Plants #1 and #2 of the BCWCID #1. Half of Treatment Plant #1's capacity of 15.0 mgd is reserved for Fort Hood. Treatment plant #2 has an additional reserve capacity of 3.0 mgd and adjacent land is available to construct another treatment plant with a capacity of 6.0 mgd (USACE 2003). It is anticipated that the existing CTC facilities as well as the facility proposed on the adjacent property within the lease will continue to use this service.

Electric Power

Texas Utilities Electric Company provides electricity to the Fort Hood area through two 138,000-volt transmission lines (USACE 1999). It is anticipated that the existing CTC facilities as well as the facility proposed on the adjacent property within the lease will continue to use this service.

Natural Gas

The Lone Star Gas Company provides a guaranteed annual delivery of 8,468 million thousand cubic feet (kcf) to the Fort Hood area (USACE 1999). It is anticipated that the existing CTC facilities as well as the facility proposed on the adjacent property within the lease will continue to use this service.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The environmental consequences section assesses the direct and indirect impacts of the lease of land from Fort Hood by CTC, including buildings 3201 and 335, the additional parcel of 0.738 acres, and the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility. Direct impacts are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. For the purposes of this EA, direct impacts are those caused by the lease of land from Fort Hood by CTC. Indirect impacts are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect impacts are those subsequent impacts associated with use or development of the subject properties. For the purpose of this EA, an indirect impact is the subsequent construction of a new two-story classroom facility. Impacts are defined as “short-term” (those impacts which would occur prior to or during construction), or “long-term” (those impacts expected to last beyond the duration of construction).

As outlined in the beginning of section 3.0, only those resources that could potentially be impacted as a result of direct or indirect impacts are addressed in the following sections.

4.1 LAND USE

4.1.1 Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, the land use on the existing buildings 335 and building 3201 will continue to be the same. The construction of a new, two-story, and 26,624 square-foot classroom facility would change the original land use on the 0.738 acre parcel adjacent to building 3201, which is currently a grassy area with an adjacent parking lot. The construction will be situated on both the grass and parking lot.

Insignificant, long-term impacts to land use would be anticipated as a result of CTC’s construction activities on the 0.738 acre grassy area because a large portion of the parcel would change from open space to a campus building and/or associated infrastructure; however, the development of this site is consistent with land use of the surrounding area.

4.1.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed. The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to land use as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.2 AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

4.2.1 Proposed Action

Building 3201 and Building 335 would not affect the area aesthetically by this new leasing action. The adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres would be converted from a grassy area to a new building. However, any development that would occur would be consistent with existing development in the immediate area. As a result, no impacts to aesthetics and visual resources would occur at the Fort Hood parcel.

4.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed. The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to aesthetics and visual resources.

4.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

4.3.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, there would be no direct impacts to geology from the proposed lease or the subsequent construction of a new classroom facility. Topography may undergo long-term but insignificant impacts due to the construction of the new classroom facility.

There would be no direct impacts to soils resulting from the new lease; however, the construction of a new classroom facility would have a long-term insignificant impact to soils.

Construction of the new classroom facility would involve standard construction activities, including clearing, grading, and paving. Construction activities would be evaluated to determine the erosion potential of the soils, and erosion control designs would be incorporated into construction plans. Increased runoff and erosion would occur during site construction due to removal of vegetation, exposure of soil, and increased susceptibility to wind and water erosion. However, these effects would be minimized by the use of appropriate best management practices for controlling runoff, erosion, and sedimentation. Recommended best management practices to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation include, but are not limited to, silt fences, straw bale (containing native grass species) dikes, diversion ditches, rip-rap channels, water bars, and water spreaders. With the implementation of these best management practices, long-term, insignificant impacts to soils are expected.

4.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed.

The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to geology, topography, or soils as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.4 WATER QUALITY

4.4.1 Proposed Action

Storm Water

Construction of the new classroom facility on the lease area would have long-term, insignificant effects from increased impervious surface area and a subsequent increase in storm water runoff. Adherence to proper storm water management engineering practices, applicable regulations, codes, and permit requirements, and low-impact development techniques would reduce storm water runoff-related impacts to a level of insignificance.

This leasing action would not have any effect on surface or storm water.

Wastewater

There would be long-term, insignificant impacts to wastewater from the construction of the new classroom facility and the associated lease of 0.738 acres. The BCWCID is capable of treating 21 mgd of wastewater. In an average year, the BCWCID treats 4.4 billion gallons of wastewater. The BCWCID should have adequate capacity to meet future development needs and there should be no significant impacts as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. However, prior to any construction activities, CTC should coordinate with the BCWCID to ensure they have adequate capacity to meet the facility's needs.

This leasing action would have no effect on wastewater.

4.4.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed. The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to water quality, including storm water and wastewater.

4.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.5.1 Vegetation

4.5.1.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, there would be no impacts to vegetation as a result of the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335.

However, the construction of a new classroom facility would have long term, insignificant impacts to vegetation.

Long-term, insignificant impacts would result on the 0.738 acre parcel due to construction activities for the new classroom facility, and would include the direct loss of less than 0.5 acres of vegetation. This loss of vegetation would be comprised of landscaped Bermuda grass, and no native tree loss is anticipated. Alteration of the landscape during construction phases is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts on species diversity or significant impacts to the quality of the vegetative community within the project area.

4.5.1.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed. The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to vegetation in the area.

4.6 AIR QUALITY

4.6.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, short-term, intermittent, insignificant effects would be expected within the AQCR as a result of construction of the new classroom facility. Heavy construction equipment and trucks would emit minor amounts of NO_x, PM₁₀, CO, SO_x, and VOCs. Although construction activities would produce dust and particulate matter, these actions pose no significant impact on air quality. Fugitive dust emissions can easily be controlled and minimized by using standard construction practices such as periodically wetting the construction area, covering open equipment used to convey materials, and promptly removing spilled or tracked dirt from streets. Since the proposed construction site is located within an unclassifiable/attainment area for all criteria pollutants, General Conformity Rule requirements are not applicable. The lease amendment would have no affect on the air quality.

4.6.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed. The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to air quality.

4.7 NOISE

4.7.1 Proposed Action

Construction activities would increase noise levels temporarily at locations. Noise levels created by construction equipment would vary greatly depending on factors such as the type of equipment, the specific model, the operation being performed, and the condition of the equipment. The equivalent sound level of the construction activity also depends on the fraction of time that the equipment is operated over the time period of the construction. Heavy equipment such as backhoes and cement and dump trucks would cause short-term, localized, insignificant increases in noise levels during construction. Most construction activities resulting from this alternative would produce only short-term noise level increases. Construction would affect the surrounding buildings, including Building 3201, which are used as classroom and administrative facilities.

Since construction would only occur during daylight hours, these short-term increases are not expected to substantially affect adjacent noise sensitive receptors or wildlife areas. If the use of dynamite, pile drivers, or any extreme noise making device associated with construction were to become prevalent, a noise study and mitigation measures should be considered.

Noise would not be affected by the new leasing action of Building 3201 and Building 335.

4.7.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed. The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to noise.

4.8 SOCIOECONOMICS

4.8.1 Proposed Action

The labor for the construction of the new classroom facility would be provided by local and/or regional contractors, resulting in short-term, insignificant increases in the population of the project area. Materials and other project expenditures would predominantly be obtained through merchants in the local community giving direct economic benefits. The proposed lease amendment and construction of the classroom facility would not be expected to increase burdens on local social resources. Safety buffer zones would be designated around all construction sites to ensure public health and safety. No displacement would result from this action and, therefore, there would be no impacts to housing in the area. Consequently, no long-term adverse impacts to socioeconomics are expected.

4.8.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed. The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to socioeconomics.

4.9 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS

4.9.1 Proposed Action

Environmental Justice

The proposed action will occur completely within the boundaries of the military installation. The Proposed Action will not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations. However the proposed construction of the classroom facility would allow more soldiers on Fort hood the chance for education.

Protection of Children from Health and Safety Risks

Numerous types of construction equipment such as backhoes, bulldozers, graders, and dump trucks, and other large construction equipment would be used throughout the duration of future construction activities on the proposed lease site. During construction, safety measures would be followed to protect the health and safety of residents as well as construction workers. Barriers and “No Trespassing” signs would be placed around construction sites to deter children from playing in these areas, and construction vehicles and equipment would be secured when not in use. Since the construction area would be flagged or otherwise fenced, issues regarding Protection of Children are not anticipated. This conclusion is based on the fact that no significant adverse environmental effects have been identified for any resource area or population (minority, low-income, children, or otherwise) analyzed in this EA. The lease amendment would have no effect on the protection of the children.

4.9.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed. The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to environmental justice or protection of children as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.10 HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC MATERIALS

4.10.1 Proposed Action

Short-term, insignificant impacts to hazardous and toxic materials would be expected as a result of construction activities at the proposed classroom construction site. The additional parcel adjacent to building 3201 is partially developed mostly undeveloped, and potentially hazardous materials would likely be on-site during construction such as paints, asphalt, fuels, and motor oils for construction vehicles. Persons working with or near fresh paint and asphalt should protect themselves by wearing appropriate clothing, washing their hands before eating or smoking, and bathing at the end of each workday. Construction equipment that could be used contains fuel, lubricating oils, hydraulic fluid, and coolants that could be a regulated hazardous substance. The construction contractors would be responsible for the prevention of spills of paint and fuels. Spills could be prevented by proper storage and handling of these materials, attention to the task at hand, and safe driving.

During construction activities, vehicle and equipment would be inspected to ensure correct and leak-free operation, and maintenance activities would not be conducted on the site. Appropriate spill containment material would be kept on site. All fuels and other materials that would be used will be contained in the equipment or stored in appropriate containers. All materials would be removed from the site upon completion of construction activities.

Some materials, while essentially inert under normal conditions, can be potentially hazardous in specific circumstances. For example, wood and dry concrete can generate airborne particulate as they are cut or sanded. To protect against the impacts of such particulates, workers should wear face masks and safety glasses when performing these tasks. Wood and other construction materials are also flammable. Establishing dedicated smoking areas and prohibiting open flames near flammable materials would greatly reduce the risk of fire.

Building 335 will be used as a classroom for culinary instruction and therefore will potentially have grease on site. CTC will be entirely responsible to place and maintain a grease trap on the premises to blocking of the sewer systems and any leaks or spills.

The lease amendment for building 3201 would have no affect on hazardous materials.

4.10.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed. The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to hazardous and toxic materials as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.11 UTILITIES

4.11.1 Proposed Action

Water, sewer, electrical, and gas lines have been installed in the existing leasing areas and would have to be installed in the project area. Prior to any construction activities, CTC should coordinate with the appropriate utility suppliers and transportation officials to ensure they have capacity to support a new classroom facility. The leasing action would have no effect on utilities in the area.

4.11.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the lease of land for a period of 25 years from Fort Hood by CTC, including building 3201, an adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres, and building 335, as well as the subsequent construction of a new two-story facility on the 0.738 acres, would not be completed. The current CTC lease would remain in place, and the current land use would not change. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to utilities as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.12 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQ regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA require Federal agencies to consider the cumulative impacts of a proposal (40 CFR 1508.25(c)). A cumulative impact on the environment is the impact that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR 1508.7). This type of an assessment is important because significant cumulative impacts can result from several smaller actions that by themselves do not have significant impacts.

There are two known projects planned for construction less than a mile from building 335. First, a new chapel is planned to be constructed southwest of building 335. Also, there are plans to construct a new Child Development Center and Family Life Center south of building 335.

There are three known projects planned for construction less than a mile from building 3201 and the adjacent parcel of 0.738 acres where the construction of the classroom facility is planned. An addition to the Soldier Development Center will be constructed to the west of building 3201. Two barracks complexes will be constructed both north and south of building 3201. A Tactical Equipment Shop VI will be constructed southwest of building 3201, south of the Soldier Development Center.

Cumulatively, water quality may be temporarily affected by the proposed construction of the two-story classroom facility, in conjunction with the above-mentioned projects. All these areas drain into South Nolan Creek. These impacts are anticipated to be temporary, adverse impacts, and are not anticipated to be significant. Best Management Practices and appropriate stormwater controls, including the implementation of a SWPPP on each of the construction sites exceeding one acre in size, will minimize any impacts that could occur.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Based on this EA, there would be no direct impacts on the environment associated with the lease amendment on these three properties; however, there will be insignificant, adverse impacts associated with the construction of the new classroom facility. Long-term, insignificant adverse impacts to land use, soils, storm water, waste water, and vegetation, are anticipated. Short-term, insignificant adverse impacts to air quality, noise, hazardous materials, and socioeconomics due to construction activities are anticipated.

Therefore, no significant impact on human health or the natural environment is anticipated from the Proposed Action. A FNSI is warranted and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this action.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

6.1 AGENCY COORDINATION

This section discusses consultation and coordination that have and will occur during preparation of this document. This would include contacts that are made during the development of the alternatives and writing of the EA. Formal and informal coordination will be conducted during the draft phase with the following agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Texas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- Central Texas College (CTC)

6.2 PUBLIC REVIEW

The Draft EA and FNSI will be available for public review for a period of 30 days, beginning 17 March 2006. The Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Killeen Daily Herald. The purpose of this review is to ensure that significant issues are resolved. The documents can be viewed on the following website: <http://www.dpw.hood.army.mil/HTML/PPD/Pnotice.htm>. Copies have also been provided to the Killeen Public Library at 205 East Church Avenue, Killeen, Texas, 76541. Comments on the EA and FNSI should be submitted no later than 17 April 2006 to: U.S. Army, HQ III Corps and Fort Hood, Attn: IMSW-HOD-PWE, Building 4219, 77th Street and Warehouse Avenue, Fort Hood, TX 76544-5028, Attn: Liv McMillan, (phone 254-288-5462).

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8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Amber Preston, NEPA Specialist, Fort Hood Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, Environmental Management Branch.

M.S. – Agricultural Education, Texas A&M University, College Station.

B.S. – Agricultural Journalism, Texas A&M University, College Station.

Two years experience.

Liv McMillan, NEPA Specialist, Fort Hood Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, Environmental Management Branch

B.S.- Environmental Management and Resources, Texas State University at San Marcos, TX